

Gatsby's Glow Answer Key

1. Object & Gatsby's Focus

The green light is at the end of Daisy Buchanan's dock. Gatsby watches it because it represents Daisy, his love, and the future he longs for.

2. Distance & Symbolism

Its distance shows how far away his dream is, visible but not yet reachable. The separation mirrors the gap between his current life and his ideal future.

3. Larger Dream

The light symbolizes Gatsby's larger dream of reclaiming the past and building a future with Daisy, tied to his desire for success and fulfillment of the American Dream.

4. Hope & Illusion

It symbolizes hope because Gatsby believes his dream is possible; it symbolizes illusion because the dream is unattainable. Daisy and the idealized past cannot truly be recaptured.

5. Modern Symbol Connection

- *Sample Answer:* A modern symbol could be a college acceptance letter, a promotion email, or even a celebrity lifestyle on social media, something people aspire to but may not fully achieve in reality.
- *Teacher Note:* Accept a variety of answers as long as students justify their choice by connecting it to themes of **ambition, desire, or longing**.

Teacher Notes

- This activity strengthens skills in **literary analysis** by pushing students beyond identifying symbols to explaining **how** they function in a text.
- Encourage students to consider Fitzgerald's critique of the **American Dream** when interpreting the green light.
- Extension idea: Have students compare the green light to another symbol in literature (e.g., the scarlet letter, the mockingbird, the conch shell) to practice cross-textual analysis.